

With today's ongoing fiscal challenges, increasingly severe storms, and escalating effects of climate change, it makes sense for our country to prepare for these disasters now in order to prevent or reduce damage. Smart planning to mitigate the adverse impact of disasters not only saves lives, but saves money—especially over the long run.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy when there were initial damage estimates in the billions of dollars, many Members from both sides of the aisle streamed to the floor to express sympathy to the victims, as well as decry the extent of the damage and large costs. This program represents an opportunity to curb similar costs in the future while also saving lives and protecting property.

It is time to reauthorize the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Program at a sufficient level to make an impact. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

PEOPLE'S BUDGET

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to thank my colleagues, Congressman KEITH ELLISON and Congressman RAÚL GRIJALVA, for their tireless leadership of the Progressive Caucus.

I would also like to thank to Congresswoman PRAMILA JAYAPAL and Congresswoman JAMIE RASKIN for hosting this Special Order Hour and for their work on this budget. It truly is a document we all can be proud of. Mr. Speaker, the federal budget is, at its heart, a moral document. It tells a story to the American people, and it tells the world who and what we care about.

Mr. Speaker, President Trump's outrageous budget that he released last month revealed what we've long suspected: President Trump's only concern is for himself and his rich friends.

His budget is both hateful and counterproductive.

Faced with such boldfaced cruelty, it's more important than ever that we present our own vision for the budget.

And what a vision the People's Budget is.

The People's Budget is the most progressive budget ever presented to Congress.

It invests in people and communities, instead of corporations, billionaires, and bombs.

It forces Wall Street executives to pay their fair share by closing the tax loopholes that corporations use to send jobs overseas and give CEO millions in untaxed bonuses. Instead, it invests in small business owners and Main Street to uplift those working in their communities.

Our budget invests in our communities by fixing infrastructure, including the leaded pipes in places like Flint, and bringing broadband to libraries and schools.

It invests over \$1 trillion in the next generation—from universal pre-school to debt-free college—so that every child, no matter what family they're born into, can get a high quality education.

And it fully funds my Computer Science for All initiative, which would increase access to STEM programs for girls and students of color.

Mr. Speaker, as a single mother, I know from experience that no parent working full-time should have to raise their family in poverty.

The People's budget lays our plan to invest in and lift women, communities of color, and working families out of poverty.

Our budget takes serious steps to end the scourge of poverty in America, including raising the wage to \$15 an hour, offering universal child care, and expanding paid sick leave to all families.

Finally, this budget lays out a plan to curb bloated Pentagon spending and reinvest in diplomacy and humanitarian aid.

It would take long overdue action to reign in waste, fraud, and abuse at the Pentagon, and give us an audit so we can see where our taxpayer dollars are going. And it would prohibit the expansion of US combat troops into President Trump's unauthorized and illegal war in Syria.

Mr. Speaker, this is a budget that we are proud to stand behind. This is a bold statement of our principles and our promise to fight for the American people.

This is our Roadmap for Resistance.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. HILLARD'S 3RD GRADE CLASS

HON. DAVID A. TROTT

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bright young artists in Mrs. Hillard's 3rd grade class at Randolph Elementary in Livonia, Michigan.

I know that artists get their start long before high school and college, learning to expand their imagination and foster their creativity in classrooms just like Mrs. Hillard's.

In an effort to highlight young artists from across Michigan's 11th Congressional District, this year, I announced the 1st Annual "Color my Capitol" Program.

Brimming with talent, Mrs. Hillard's students were eager to showcase their amazing artistic skills and take part in this one-of-a-kind program.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Hillard's 3rd graders did not disappoint. Their creations are unique, innovative, and imaginative. Their colorful artwork embodies our country's bright and promising future with these sharp young minds leading the way.

It is my utmost honor to have their artwork displayed in my Congressional district office in Troy, Michigan for everyone who visits to enjoy. Each and every time I walk into my office, I am reminded of their talent.

Congratulations to Mrs. Hillard and the young artists she has the pleasure of teaching.

AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE LETTER TO PRESIDENT TRUMP REGARDING TURKEY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD a letter from the Amer-

ican Hellenic Institute regarding President Trump's upcoming meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. As one of the co-chairs of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, I have advocated for the rights of Greece and Cyprus against the intimidating actions of Turkey. Since Turkey's Presidential referendum vote, Erdogan's government continues to ignore and violate long-standing international law and treaties—a threat to regional security and an impediment to regional interests, stability, and prosperity.

As we have done times before, we must continue to condemn these acts of aggression and renew our call for President Erdogan's government to demonstrate to the international community that it is committed to all international laws and agreements. Additionally, the United States and our strategic regional allies must be better prepared to respond quickly and forcefully to transgression of international law from any nation including NATO ally Turkey through targeted sanctions and foreign aid restrictions.

President DONALD J. TRUMP,
President of the United States,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On behalf of the nationwide membership of the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), I write in advance of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Washington to raise the Institute's concern about how Turkey is a significant force of instability. In recent months, Turkey has elevated tensions in the Aegean Sea with NATO ally Greece, threatened Cyprus' sovereign right to explore for natural gas within its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and has infringed upon Cyprus' EEZ, and President Erdogan has directed alarming rhetoric toward the European Union and its citizens. In February, I wrote to urge the administration to act to uphold the rule of law and to call on Turkey, the provocateur of these tensions, to cease and desist with its actions that have dire implications to U.S. security interests. Now, AHI requests these issues, which demonstrate the instability for which Turkey is responsible, to be placed on your meeting agenda with President Erdogan on May 16.

AEGEAN SEA

Historically, Turkey has violated Greece's sovereignty in the Aegean Sea on an almost daily basis. In 1996, Turkey's claims to the Imia islets nearly led the two NATO allies to war over the islands. In recent years, the Institute notes Turkey's frequent and egregious violations of NATO ally Greece's sovereignty in the Aegean Sea:

In 2014, there were 3,045 total violations of Greek national airspace and infringements of Air Traffic Regulations (ICAO) that resulted in eight engagements with Hellenic Air Force interception fighters, according to the Hellenic National Defense General Staff.

On March 1, 2015, Turkey unilaterally issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM), a move to reserve extensive airspace over the Aegean Sea for military maneuvers that Greece protested. On March 3, 2015, Turkey canceled the NOTAM thanks to pressure from the U.S. and NATO.

On July 15, 2015, six Turkish fighters crossed into Greek airspace 20 times—in a single day.

On February 15, 2016, six Turkish fighter jets and a CN-235 maritime patrol aircraft violated Greek airspace 22 times—again, in a single day.

In sum, 2,573 infringements and violations of Greece's airspace occurred in 2016.

In fall 2016, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has elevated tensions unnecessarily by publicly calling into question the